

All Around the World with Beauty and her Beast

This week Room 207 explored the folk tale Beauty and the Beast as it has been told around the world. A librarian from the Bridgeview Public Library, Mrs. Kim Kanofsky, brought in many books for us to explore. Together, we read several versions of this story from Italy, Zimbabwe, Germany, and other countries. We even read the Walt Disney version. We practiced comparing and contrasting different stories, determined main and supporting characters, looked for key details, acted out the verbs in stories, and created our own illustrations for scenes in our books.

To help your child better understand these concepts, you may want to check out more fairy and folk tale books. Mrs. Kanofsky has prepared a list of books you may want to read together. The list is included in this handout. You can also visit www.beautyandherbeast.weebly.com for more suggestions or to contact Mrs. Kanofsky.

Here are questions you can ask your child after reading two different versions of similar stories:

Who are the main characters in each story? Who are the supporting characters?

What happens at the beginning of each story? What happens in the middle?

What happens at the end?

How are these stories the same? How are these stories different?

What did the illustrations tell you about the stories?

What were the main topics and key details in each story?

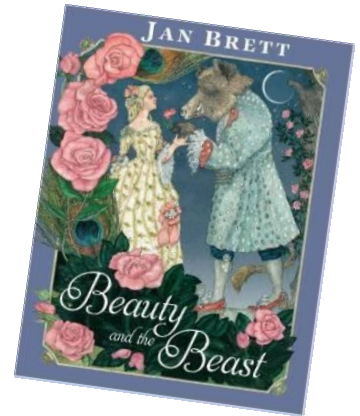
“Beauty and the Beast” recommended readings:



Beaumont, Jeanne-Marie Leprince De, and Sebastián Barreiro. *La Bella Y La Bestia*. Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 2004. Print. This version, written in Spanish and accompanied by charming drawings, tells the tale of a lonely Beast living in an enchanted castle in a dark forest. When Beauty and Beast find each other, their love breaks the enchantment.

Brett, Jan. *Beauty and the Beast*. New York: Putnam Juvenile, 2011. Print.

In the classic style of Jan Brett, this story is retold using glamorous tapestries and shorter text than her original version in 1989. Beauty and her boar-like beast live in a magical castle where they are served by animals dressed in period costumes. The tapestries contain hidden clues as to the beast’s secrets and his true identity.

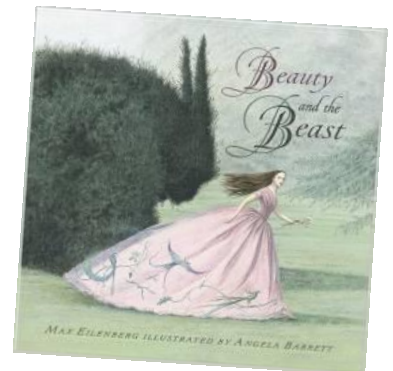


Disney, Walt. *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Danbury, CT: Grolier Enterprises, 1993. Print.

The best known version of Beauty and the Beast can be found in this Disney retelling featuring images from the beloved film. Set in France, Beauty’s father has made an enemy of the enchanted Beast. Beauty has agreed to fulfill her father’s punishment by moving in with the Beast and his magical servants. Will Beauty be able to break the spell that enchants them all?

Eilenberg, Max, and Angela Barrett. *Beauty and the Beast*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2006. Print.

For those who like to read longer stories and enjoy intricate illustrations, this retelling by Eilenberg is a perfect fit. In this story, one of three “extremely beloved daughters” dreams of finding her prince. Instead, she must move in with a monster in order to save her father’s life. Exquisitely illustrated in water colors, this tale holds on to its classic beauty and captures a story about love and kindness.



More Retellings of Beauty and the Beast:

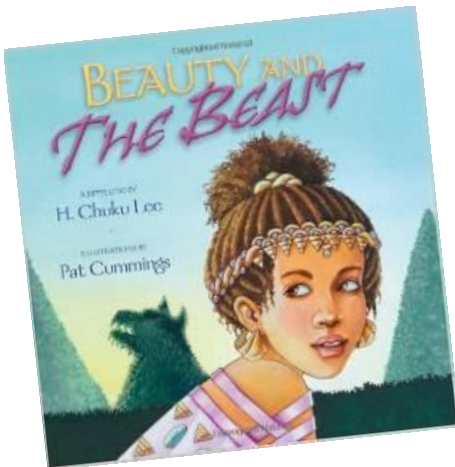
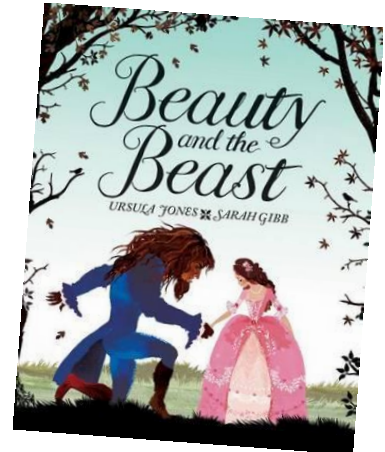


Higgins, Nadia, and Kathleen Petelinsek. *Beauty and the Beast*. Mankato, MN: Child's World, 2014. Print.

With easy to read text and simple drawings, Higgins has captured the story of a young girl held captive by a mighty beast. The beast is also held captive by a spell. Will this girl and beast discover that true love comes from within or will they be stuck focusing on their difference in appearances?

Jones, Ursula, and Sarah Gibb. *Beauty and the Beast*. Chicago: Albert Whitman, 2014. Print.

Written by award-winning author Ursula Jones, this classic folktale takes on new life with elegance and humor. The illustrations are a beauty to behold helping this book capture both the magic and excitement of budding friendships and falling in love.



Lee, H. Chuku., and Pat Cummings. *Beauty and the Beast: A Retelling*. New York: Amistad, an Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2014. Print.

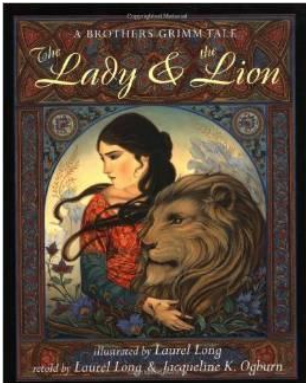
Beauty narrates this version of the classic redesigned and set in South Africa. With a focus on unlikely friendships as well as love and devotion, this well-written hardcover with skillfully illustrated water colors makes this picture book a beauty to behold.

Loewen, Nancy, and Cristian Bernardini. *No Lie, I Acted like a Beast!: The Story of Beauty and the Beast as Told by the Beast*. North Mankato, MN: Picture Window, 2013.

This hilarious retelling of the story from Beast's point of view is full of humorous details and insights about Beauty, her father, and the curse on beast's household. With telling illustrations, this narrative is easy for all levels of readers to reach and appreciate.



Even More Retellings of Beauty and the Beast:

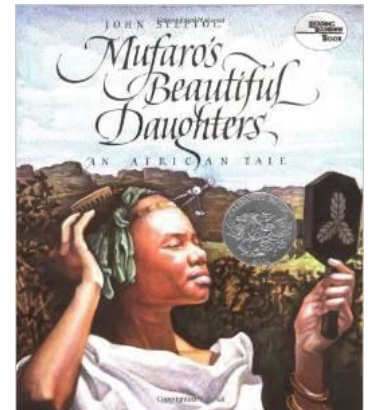


Long, Laurel, and Jacqueline K. Ogburn. *The Lady & the Lion*. New York: Dial, 2003. Print.

This story begins like the familiar Beauty and the Beast story with an honorable young woman living with a menacing lion to save her father's life. The lion is under a spell where by day he is a lion and by night he is a prince. It will take all the strength and courage, as well as seven years, for the lady to break through this spell and save the prince. Good for strong readers, this narrative covers elements from several folk and fairy tales including Beauty and the Beast.

Steptoe, John. Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1987. Print.

Set in Zimbabwe, this story follows a King who is looking for a worthy bride. Mufaro sends his two beautiful daughters to the capital city to meet with the king. Along the way, the daughters interact with characters who will in turn determine their fate. The gorgeous illustrations and beautiful setting lend more than just an extra to this well-written story and in fact help build a world rich in history and culture.



Yep, Laurence, and Kim Mak. *Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty & the Beast Tale*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997. Print.

When a dragon terrorizes a poor farmer, his young daughter, Seven, agrees to help her father by marrying the dragon. Complete with several full-page and two-page spreads of illustrations, this story is full of intrigue, jealousy, and suspense.

More folk and fairy tales to enjoy:

Ehrlich, Amy, H. C. Andersen, Charles Perrault, Wilhelm Grimm, Jacob Grimm, and Diane Goode. *The Random House Book of Fairy Tales*. New York: Random House, 1985. Print.

French, Vivian, and Peter Malone. *The Kingfisher Book of Fairy Tales*. New York: Kingfisher, 2000. Print.